

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, TOPEKA, KAN.



REV. CHARLES M. SHELDON

AUTHOR OF "IN HIS STEPS."

"IN HIS STEPS: or, What Would Jesus Do?" by Rev. Charles M. Sheldon of Topeka, has reached a sale greater than any story ever printed. It has been translated into no less than nine languages, and over 3,000,000 copies have been sold. It cannot be said that the author did not in a vague way, anticipate a widespread circulation, for he stipulated with the publisher that the book be printed in a cheap as well as an expensive edition, so that it might be within the reach of all.

In 1881 Mr. Sheldon adopted a new plan of Sunday evening services in the Central Congregational church at Topeka. During the winter he read his first story, entitled "Richard Bruce." Each chapter served as a Sunday evening sermon. The new way of preaching Christianity met with approval, and since then he has written 11 stories, which have been read in the same manner.

"Richard Bruce" was written in 1881. "Robert Hardy's Seven Days" in 1882. "The Twentieth Door" in 1883. "The Crucifixion of Philip Strong" in 1884. "His Brother's Keeper" in 1885. "In His Steps" in 1886. "Malcolm Kirk" in 1887. "The Redemption of Freetown" in 1888. "One of the Two" in 1889. "The Miracle of Markham" in 1890. "For Christ and the Church" in 1891.

Although Mr. Sheldon has written a dozen books, he is known best as the author of "In His Steps." The work was not copyrighted in England, and 20 publishing houses there are still issuing editions. It has been translated into French, German, Russian, Italian, Armenian, Swedish, Norwegian, Spanish and dialects of western Africa. From the editions in the United States, which sell as low as 15 cents a copy, Mr. Sheldon's income is estimated at \$500 per month.

Mr. Sheldon is by nature a retiring man, and almost dreads notoriety. He will not talk for publication and never breaks that rule. He has had flattering offers to enter the lecture field, but refuses them all, preferring to accept invitations to lecture before religious societies without remuneration. A writer for an eastern religious paper telegraphed him as follows:

"I am coming to Topeka to stay a week to treat fully of your methods and motives in writing and the work of your church in detail. The article will be syndicated and will be printed in nearly every paper in the country."

Mr. Sheldon replied immediately as follows:

"You need not come. I will not talk to you. I have some rights which you are bound to respect."



HOME OF REV. CHARLES M. SHELDON.

When told that the people who read his books would like to know about the author, he said: "That is mere idle curiosity. I do not wish to be talked about, or to have my church work talked about. The message I have for these people among whom I live I give in my sermons. The message I have for the world at large I give in my books. I have nothing more to say."

Although he avoids notoriety, he is willing to speak when an opportunity presents itself to further the cause of religion or humanity. He believes in municipal ownership of public utilities, and has studied the subject at home and abroad. He affiliates with no political party, but in local campaigns when this point was in question, he has made speeches in favor of public ownership. He believes that water, heat and light plants, together with

street car lines, should be operated by cities.

Charles M. Sheldon was born in Wellsville, N. Y., and is 41 years of age. Rev. Stewart Sheldon, his father, moved to Dakota while Charles was a boy, and was actively engaged in missionary work among the Indians. The young man's early education was received in the country school. Later he was graduated from Phillips academy, Brown university and the Andover Theological seminary. After his graduation he went to England, where he spent several months studying the poorer classes in London and Glasgow. He became pastor of his first church at Waterbury, Vt., upon his return, and in 1888 accepted a call to the pulpit of the Central Congregational church in Topeka.

At one time he requested his congregation to excuse him from parish work, and was seen only at church services. For several months he studied the different classes of wage earners in a novel manner. Unknown to any one, he donned the garb of a laborer, secured a "job" and went to work. He worked as a mechanic's helper in the railroad shops and spent some time on the road with the trainmen. He mingled with the lawyers and doctors, and finally entered Washburn college at Topeka as a student. He joined the scholars in athletic games and literary societies. His special field of labor was later in "Tennessee town," the negro quarter of Topeka.

The result of his work is most noticeable in the negro quarter. The yards, once littered and unsightly, have been transformed into gardens and flower beds. Prizes were offered for the best kept houses, neatest yards, most thrifty families, and the change has been wonderful. A free reading room and kindergarten were established for the colored people. The story "The Redemption of Freetown" is the story of the work among the negroes. Through his efforts a kindergarten was established in connection with his church, and the kindergartens are fostered by an association.

When asked if "In His Steps" was founded upon facts, Mr. Sheldon says: "The story in 'His Steps' when written was purely imaginary. I knew of no such places or characters in existence. It was not founded upon facts, but it was written with a desire that the imaginary might become real. Since the story was written I have heard of several characters who are very nearly like those in the book."

Mr. Sheldon is married and has one child, a boy. His home is a neat cottage on College Hill. Most of his writing is done in the study of his church.

One of his ideas is for a Christian newspaper to be managed on a Christian basis. At the meeting of the Christian Endeavor society in Detroit he asked the meeting to subscribe \$1,000,000 to be used in establishing a thoroughly Christian daily newspaper in Chicago. He believes that the time will come when his dream will be a reality.

THE FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN POSTOFFICE.



The first postoffice in South Africa is shown in the accompanying illustration. Recently, when making alterations in Adderly street, Cape Town, a large slab of granite was found beneath the roadway in front of the present postoffice. This slab bore the following inscription: "The London arrived the 10 of May here from Surat bound for England and departed 20 dicto. Richard Blyth, Captain. 1622. Here under look for letters." Further down the stone another hand had written: "1623. Jan Reynor Glock. Jasper van Beringhen. 7 Jan." It is supposed that the letters left by Captain Richard Blyth for ports at which he was not touching were taken on seven years later by Jan Glock and duly delivered by him, his name and date being left on the stone to show that he had done so.

COSTLY TRAVELING.

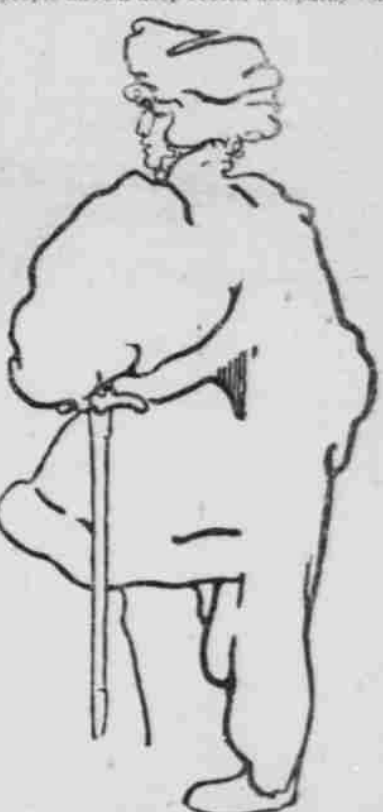
The most extensive tollgate to pass through is, perhaps, that which is kept up at Swinford bridge, in Eynsham. Bicycles cost 4 cents each way, vehicles are charged 2 cents per wheel, and



even a perambulator is not permitted to go through the gate without a little deposit of 5 cents. So the unhappy father of a family who has to take his family through Swinford bridge tollgate will be seriously mulcted before he has passed along his way.

MAKING FUN OF BERNHARDT.

Sara Bernhardt as Hamlet was not altogether a success in England, where people have a deep rooted antipathy for



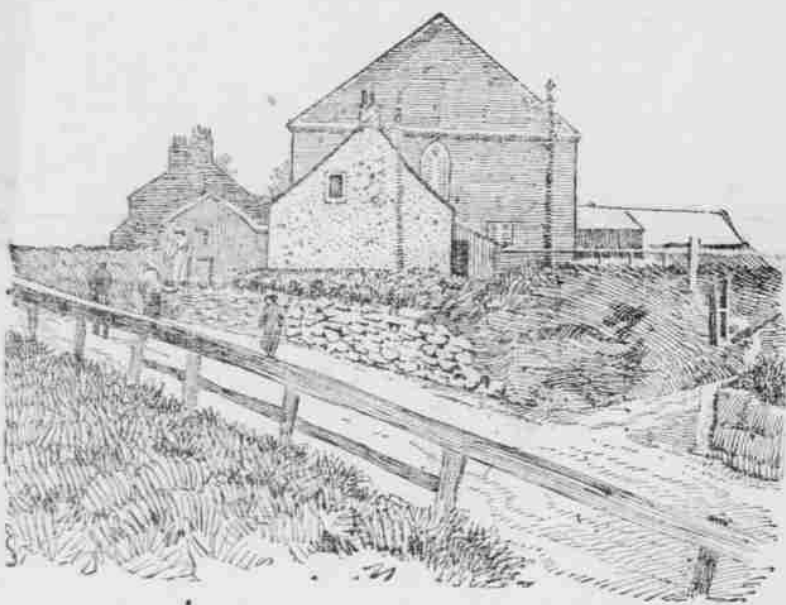
all vandals who take liberties with their beloved Shakespeare. So the divine Sara had a good deal of fun poked at her during her English engagement. The accompanying cut, in connection with this, will show just how Gordon Craig, the talented son of Ellen Terry, staked up Bernhardt as the melancholy Dane. Mr. Craig, by the way, is at present editor of The Stage, a saucy little publication now being brought out in England.

A NEWFOUNDLAND STAMP.

The Duke of York's head is the figure which decorates the new 5 cent stamp of the colony of Newfoundland. The issuance of this new stamp marks the fifth of a series of royal portraits issued by England's oldest colony. The Duke of York himself, by the way, is an enthusiastic stamp collector, and is at present the president of the Newfoundland Philatelic society. The Newfoundland series is as follows: Prince Edward of Wales, one-half cent; Queen Victoria, 1 cent; Prince of Wales, 2 cents; Princess of Wales, 3 cents, and Duke of York, 5 cents.



THE REAL WINDOW IN THRUMS.



The many thousand readers of Barrie in America who have pored over the pages of that delightful book, "A Window in Thrums," will examine with interest the accompanying picture, which shows the original "Thrums" window as described by the young Scottish novelist. The window of fiction was on the ground floor, while the window in reality, as shown in the picture, is a small attic window in the gable end of the house. From it, however, it is possible, as from the window of the author's creation, to command not only a full view of the "brave," but also the greater portion of the house tops of "Thrums," which latter is really the village of Kirriemuir.

AN INTREPID ASIATIC EXPLORER.

Here is the latest photograph of Dr. Sven Hedin, the young but already famous Asiatic explorer, taken before he started on his second journey into central Asia. This adventurous young Swede will spend several years in traveling once more through the unknown parts of Asia, taking a new route through Asiatic Russia and Turkestan. Hedin will travel accompanied only by his old Asiatic servant, Islam Bal, who went with the explorer on his first marvelous journey through the unknown regions of Chinese Turkestan and Tibet, so well described in the explorer's recently published book.



The czar, who has taken the greatest interest in the work accomplished by Dr. Hedin, has issued orders that every facility be given the traveler while he is in Russian territory, and has provided a special escort of Cossacks for him through Asiatic Russia. On reaching Kashgar Dr. Hedin will proceed in an easterly direction for the purpose of making fresh investigations in Chinese Turkestan, where he hopes to make new discoveries among the antiquities of the surrounding country. After this he will explore the unknown Lob region and cross the great Asiatic sand deserts by various routes. Thence he will make his way down through Tibet to India, where all his work, of course, will be for purely scientific purposes. King Oscar of Sweden will defray the expenses of the long journey, which will amount to \$15,000, and Lord Curzon, the new viceroy of India, will give him every assistance while he is in British territory.

late has been in straitened circumstances, has received a legacy of \$50,000 from John C. Crego, a miserly miser, who recently died at Cripple Creek. Years ago Cooper saved Crego from drowning, but had since then lost all trace of him.

Dr. Felix Burnet, a surgeon of the French navy, has perfected a means of removing tattoo marks.

Captain Samuel W. Barrett of the steamer Thama, which carries the Federal relief expedition, is one of a large

WHERE THE JAP ENJOYS REST.

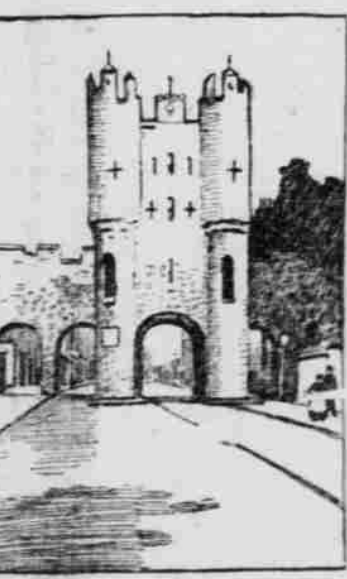


Here is a picture of Japan's favorite health resort, where the fashionable Jap goes when oriental dissipation makes it necessary for him to "take the waters." It is about 100 miles from Tokyo, known as Tansu, that the far famed Tansu water springs are found. This water, when aerated, is universally drunk by foreigners throughout Japan in preference to soda water. On the hill shown in the background of the picture there is a sanitarium, below which are the bathhouses where those Celestials suffering from rheumatic affections and disorders of the digestive organs think they receive tremendous relief by daily immersing themselves in the saline waters of the different springs.

Tansu of late has been invaded by the ubiquitous European, who has discovered the wonderful curative powers of its waters and the health giving qualities of its mountain air. The result has been a sudden modernization of what previously was a primitive little inland Japanese burg, and it is not improbable that Tansu will in time rank with the Riviera as a fashionable health resort.

THE TOWER OF YORK.

It was from the tower of Micklegate Bar shown in the accompanying illustration, that the head of the unfortunate Duke of York was hung four centuries and a half ago by order of Queen Margaret. York was slain in the battle of Wakefield Green in 1460, and by order



of the queen his head was ironically crowned with a paper crown and hung at the entrance tower of the city of York, so that "York might overlook the town of York."

A RECORD BREAKING RIDE.



The accompanying picture shows the gallant mare Irish Lass, which not long ago carried its owner from Vienna to Paris, a distance of 145 miles, in 12 days. Sixty-five miles a day, as every one knows, is more than the average riding horse can travel without showing signs of exhaustion, but Irish Lass arrived at her destination none the worse for her long jaunt. Her owner on this occasion was M. Charles Gotta, an adventurous young Frenchman, whose object in undertaking the trip was to beat Major Zubovitch's record of 14 days.

streets must be made straight. If any houses interfere, they are promptly swept away, while even a dried up water course must be spanned with a bridge.

Sir Gordon Hild, the new British general, like so many other well known soldiers, is an Irishman, having been born in County Clare.

The German emperor when receiving foreign representatives or military attaches of foreign powers always wears the uniform of the army of the country

A CANNIBAL'S CLEVER SON.

Mau Wi Pomare is a New Zealander who will study anatomy in a manner different from his forefathers. This talented young gentleman, whose picture is shown in the accompanying illustration, is the unquestioned descendant of a long line of cannibal chiefs. Though he was at one time a native Maori king, he is now a hardworking medical student in the United States and is a well-dressed, pleasant spoken young gentleman.



man, with good features and a clear olive complexion, with the broad shoulders and physique of the trained athlete. His name has been Anglicized, and now he is known as Mr. William Pitt Pomare and is an expert football player.

AN INDIAN PROPHET.

The name of this dusky gentleman is Pundit Tarini Prasad Jyotishi, and his business is that of a prophet. Each year he gravely publishes in the newspapers of Calcutta forecasts of events



for the forthcoming 12 months, and like other Indian Zerkels, often makes a happy hit. This, by the way, is the manner in which he has sized up Lady Curzon:

"She is possessed of great and good powers. Her eyes are beautiful and bright, and indicative of greatness and royal attributes. She will be famous herself and cause fame to her husband."

MEN OF MARK.

Lieutenant James C. Cressap, U. S. N., was a midshipman on the old Constitution under Dewey. He says the latter, when he found two of the underofficers quarreling, would make them do ten hours "extra guards" together, a process which never failed to make them friends again.

In the heart of George Vanderbilt's

estate near Asheville is a plot owned by an old negro, who lives there and refuses to sell. He says he has been bothered all his life by bad neighbors, and now that he has a good one he will not move.

President Loubet has purchased the Chateau de Mazon, a famous country seat in the department of the Drome, his native district. The chateau, which

has long been in the possession of the De Vissac family, was for a time the residence of Diane de Poitiers. Her bed is still preserved at the castle, which is an imposing structure, flanked by four massive towers, crowned by a central crenellated tower, and containing a hundred windows on its front aspect. The building stands in a park of 50 acres.

Robert E. M. Cooper, who was formerly a prominent newspaper editor and politician of St. Louis, but who of

late has been in straitened circumstances, has received a legacy of \$50,000 from John C. Crego, a miserly miser, who recently died at Cripple Creek. Years ago Cooper saved Crego from drowning, but had since then lost all trace of him.

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Captain Samuel W. Barrett of the steamer Thama, which carries the Federal relief expedition, is one of a large

family of widely known sea captains who have figured prominently in arctic exploration work. One of his brothers, John, is captain of the Windward, now somewhere in Greenland.

The archbishop of Canterbury is said to be 90 years old.

The Chinese emperor must never turn a corner when out for a drive. If he is seized with a fancy to drive out, which fortunately does not occur often, as it means enormous expenses, all the

visitors must be made straight. If any houses interfere, they are promptly swept away, while even a dried up water course must be spanned with a bridge.

Sir Gordon Hild, the new British general, like so many other well known soldiers, is an Irishman, having been born in County Clare.

The German emperor when receiving foreign representatives or military attaches of foreign powers always wears the uniform of the army of the country

the visitor represents, and sometimes during a leave he will change his uniform five or six times.

In the opinion of Senator Depew a course of lectures on the operation of railroads would be a valuable addition to all of our leading colleges, considering the large part which railroads play in our everyday life and how little they are understood. It would indeed be a valuable addition if our railroads were as well managed as the railroads of Senator Depew.